

Fountain Grove CA  
Wetland Renovation Project Update  
July 2009

Completion of Phase II of the wetland renovation project at Fountain Grove Conservation Area has been delayed due to extensive flooding throughout 2008 and spring 2009. Remaining aspects of the project include completing replacement of the large, original water control structures in Pools 2 and 3, installing hardware in water control structures constructed in 2007, completing construction activities in H and J pools, and evaluating the water supply system. Future progress of the renovation project is dependent on weather, flood events, and whether soil conditions dry out sufficiently to allow equipment access.

**Current Renovation Project Activities**

Progress has been made on the Pool 2 and 3 water control structures; the contractor has removed both old structures and completed concrete work on the new structures. Some dirt work and rock placement still remain to be done around the new structures and the internal hardware, which has a projected delivery date of August, still remains to be installed. Department crews continue to repair levees damaged in recent floods, to install a concrete floodway designed to reduce levee damage in future floods, and continue with efforts to install hardware in water control structures constructed in Pools 1, 2, and 3. Construction activities in H and J pool have not yet resumed due to the continuing wet conditions; remaining items to be addressed include replacing and/or completing water control structures in H and J pools, renovating existing levees, and completing the new contour levee in J pool. Additionally, a contract was awarded to a consulting firm to investigate the best water supply system for the area. Their efforts have also been hindered by wet conditions; once they complete their investigation and make a recommendation to the Department, the new water supply system will be designed, bid out, and installed. This process to replace the River pump could take several years and, again, is dependent on weather conditions.

**Waterfowl Hunting Opportunity**

Given the uncertain weather and ground conditions, it is difficult to predict the number of waterfowl hunting positions that will be available this fall. As has been the case the last 2 years, any hunting opportunity during the early Teal and Youth Waterfowl Seasons will be dependent on project progress and water availability. Waterfowl hunting opportunity on the East side of the area during the north zone Duck Season should be relatively normal; we generally offer 6-8 walk-in positions depending on water levels. July and August are, typically, the driest months of the year; potential waterfowl hunting opportunities for the remainder of the area will be updated as the summer advances and we have a better idea of project progress.

Some area roads may be closed periodically due to flood events and/or construction activities. The Pool 2 road is currently closed due to construction activities; this and any other closed areas or roads will be posted on an area map in the Hunter Checkin room, located on the west end of the area shop building. For further updates, please call the Fountain Grove area information line at 660/938-4124 ext 30 or the Chillicothe office at 660/646-6122. Thanks for your patience and support.